

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 9, beginning on line 19 and continuing to page 10, line 3, as follows:

The history field 124 of an existing entry is updated with a new direction outcome of an executed branch. The replacement field 129 for this entry is updated if the prediction by the SCBP 104 was incorrect. If the prediction was correct, then the replacement field 129 is not updated which indicates the entry was not used. Such a functionality is implemented by history update logic 146. This gives a better utilization of the local history tables 120 because in this way the tables 120 are used only for compensating any mispredictions generated by the SCBP 104. If the predictions by the SCBP 104 remain accurate, then the replacement fields 129 of the LBHP 108 are not updated, thus allowing other branches to occupy the LBHP, which in turn means more efficient use of the on-chip area taken by the LBHP 108.